

U.S. Congresswoman

Ginny Brown-Waite

*Representing Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy,
Marion, Pasco, Polk, and Sumter Counties*



Committee on Financial Services Hearing on H.R. 6078, the GREEN Act June 11, 2008 Statement for the Record

Thank Mr. Chairman, and thank you to our witnesses for being here today.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the sponsor is trying to accomplish with this bill, but I must say I have grave concerns about its consequences.

I am also perplexed by its timing.

We all know the housing market has been rocky, unpredictable, and unreliable, and is still sitting in virtual quicksand.

Congress has forced homeowners to absorb sky rocketing gas and food prices, mortgage ARM resets, and in Florida, significant property insurance and tax increases, all while they're losing value in their own homes.

We've demanded that Fannie and Freddie come to the aid of our housing market by taking on more risk through higher conforming loan limits and expanding their affordable housing goals.

And Congress is passing bills that dramatically expand FHA's role in stabilizing the housing market.

Now we're going to demand that homes be built to lofty and somewhat unproven and overly ambitious environmental standards?

Mr. Chairman, you don't put passengers back on a sinking Titanic, so why would we put these additional regulatory weights on a housing market that is still teetering on a tight rope?

This bill requires Fannie and Freddie to purchase 5% of energy efficient mortgages and location efficient mortgages, with the intent to go as high as 25%.

By requiring this, we'll divert very important resources from Fannie and Freddie's primary goal of purchasing affordable housing loans.

As anyone can see, this could have a drastically unwanted negative effect on our current housing woes.

Additionally, the GREEN Act requires appraisers to consider renewable energy sources, energy efficiency or energy conserving improvements in homes.

This bill will require this while Americans are paying \$4 per gallon for gas - \$1.67 more in Florida than they were paying when Democrats took control.

Americans are taking money from their savings, their discretionary spending, their children's' education, their health care plans – anywhere they kind find it – and now Democrats are asking Americans to spend *more* to make their homes energy efficient so they appraise better?

As home values continue to fall into a black hole, Americans are expected to spend *more* on them?

This is not the time to pass this bill, or even consider it.

Mr. Chairman, I urge you to put this measure aside and focus on things that will help Americans today.

This Committee needs to focus on the eroding dollar and what it is doing oil prices world wide.

And this Committee needs to focus on the continued dizziness of the housing market, not what additional restrictions and roadblocks we can put around it.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.